

CHAPTER 5

Administrative Structure and Aging Network

AREA AGENCIES ON AGING (AAA)

Almost 500,000 clients receive services through New Jersey's AAA network – a system that operates in the state's 21 counties. The counties are Atlantic, Bergen, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Essex, Gloucester, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Salem, Somerset, Sussex, Union and Warren. In New Jersey, there is a statewide network of comprehensive community-based services through the Area Plan Contracts (APC). The services and funding sources are shown in Exhibits 12 and 13 below.

EXHIBIT 12

AREA PLAN CONTRACT SERVICES PROVIDED, 2004

SERVICE	UNITS	CLIENTS	EXPENDITURES
Information & Assistance	360,978	166,645	\$5,021,641
Benefits Screening	25,281	6,483	\$632,532
Extended Assessment	4,311	1,764	\$185,219
Outreach	44,163	23,698	\$1,328,396
Care Management	162,438	8,286	\$4,333,275
Transportation	794,843	15,825	\$5,578,370
Assisted Transportation	95,982	7,004	\$973,031
Newsletter	23	78,323	\$39,775
Friendly Visiting	31,207	937	\$203,482
Telephone Reassurance	290,969	2,735	\$332,320
Residential Maintenance	43,379	4,125	\$1,270,362
Housekeeping	83,425	1,688	\$1,544,580
Certified Home Health Aide	282,366	3,096	\$5,124,102
Visiting Nurse	10,883	855	\$283,443
Respite Care	97,813	1,100	\$1,725,728
Hospice Care	13,082	440	\$214,181
Emergency	9,107	1,984	\$511,398
Homesharing/Matching	981	124	\$34,273
Housing Assistance	1,654	601	\$91,875
Caregiver Support Group	859	884	\$136,054
Adult Day Services – Social	585,100	2,137	\$3,832,351
Adult Day Services – Medical	115,229	510	\$1,308,932
Personal Care	4,660	302	\$79,001
Adult Protective Services	185,394	4,939	\$4,940,813
Legal Assistance	22,444	5,958	\$1,346,684
Physical Health	36,869	14,031	\$1,158,111
Physical Health – Dental	26,524	1,404	\$692,843

EXHIBIT 12**AREA PLAN CONTRACT SERVICES PROVIDED, 2004**

SERVICE	UNITS	CLIENTS	EXPENDITURES
Mental Health	9,932	1,651	\$819,360
Counseling	7,411	1,058	\$239,759
Physical Fitness	12,100	6,542	\$458,604
Education	30,898	24,779	\$933,839
Language Translation & Interpretation	6,161	1,976	\$148,036
Socialization/Recreation	35,715	13,040	\$1,064,896
Ombudsman	670	180	\$42,749
Congregate Meals	2,033,193	30,740	\$18,875,081
Home Delivered Meals	3,391,576	23,075	\$17,854,643
State Weekend Home Delivered Meals	330,274	6,102	\$1,841,832
Nutrition Education	1,900	29,432	\$202,772
Nutrition Counseling	2,727	2,515	\$188,919
Total of All Services	9,192,521	496,968	\$85,593,262

EXHIBIT 13**SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR AREA PLAN CONTRACT SERVICES PROVIDED, 2004**

SERVICE FUNDS	EXPENDITURES	PERCENTAGE
Older Americans Act Title III B	\$9,672,226	11.30%
Older Americans Act Title III C1	\$8,916,468	10.42%
Older Americans Act Title III C2	\$5,952,038	6.95%
Older Americans Act Title III D	\$502,920	0.59%
Older Americans Act Title III D - Medication Management	\$217,722	0.25%
Older Americans Act Title III E	\$4,379,100	5.12%
State Matching Funds	\$3,046,378	3.56%
State COLA	\$3,019,682	3.53%
NSIP (Nutrition Services Incentive Program)	\$3,310,264	3.87%
Social Services Block Grant	\$9,095,462	10.63%
Adult Protective Services	\$4,067,383	4.75%
State Weekend Home Delivered Meals	\$913,038	1.07%
Safe Housing and Transportation	\$1,008,524	1.18%
NJ EASE Care Management Quality Assurance*	\$189,778	0.22%
State Home Delivered Meals	\$914,916	1.07%
HealthEASE Grant (Bergen County portion)*	\$33,810	0.04%
PACE (Health and Wellness Grant)	\$4,484	0.01%
Local Public Funds	\$17,084,872	19.96%
Local Private Funds	\$6,399,994	7.48%
Participant Income	\$4,879,842	5.70%
Other Income	\$1,984,361	2.32%
Total Service Expenditures	\$85,593,262	100.00%

NJ COMMISSION ON AGING

The New Jersey State Commission on Aging was created by Chapter 72 of the Laws of 1957. The law specifies that the members of the commission shall be selected from among the citizens of the state who have demonstrated interest in the problems of aging. It states:

The New Jersey Commission on Aging upon Consultation with the NJ Division of Aging and Community Services (DACS), shall:

- Formulate a comprehensive, statewide master plan which identifies the needs of the senior citizens in this state;
- Hold public hearings to solicit input on the needs of older New Jerseyans and their caregivers;
- Advocate for the needs of older New Jerseyans and their caregivers with elected officials at both the state and county level;
- Make recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature on legislation needed in areas related to aging;
- Involve itself with other organizations that share the goal of advancing the quality of life for older adults, and
- Review and approve the State Strategic Plan on Aging.

Membership of the commission is prescribed in Public Law 1995, Chapter 346. There are nineteen members of the commission, as defined below:

- Fifteen members are appointed by the Governor for terms of three years.
- Four members serve in an ex-officio capacity: two legislative members, one appointed by the President of the Senate, one appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly, one representative chosen by and from the Executive Directors of the Area Agencies on Aging and the Assistant Commissioner of DACS.
- The commission elects a chairman, a vice-chairman and a secretary from the members appointed by the Governor. The commission meets regularly on a bi-monthly basis.

To meet the challenges of the 21st century, the Commission on Aging met in November of 2000 to reexamine its mission, organizational structure, and goals to ensure that it is fulfilling its obligations and responsibilities as an advocate for older adults and their caregivers. Five committees were established or reaffirmed, and each was given a mission and goals.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS COMMITTEE

The mission of the Health Promotion Committee is to promote the health and wellness of older adults by advocating for programs that encourage healthy lifestyle changes and the utilization of preventive measures to postpone or prevent disease and disability, maintain and improve health status, and enhance independence and quality of life of older adults. This committee does the following:

- Advocates for health promotion for older adults through legislative activities.
- Supports new wellness initiatives initiated by DHSS.
- Serves in an advisory capacity.
- Provides input and identifies opportunities for collaboration with new partners.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

The mission of the Legislative Committee is to serve as an advocate for the older adults age 60 and over in New Jersey by reviewing, preparing comments and recommending positions on proposed legislation and presenting them to the Commission on Aging for consideration and action. The committee, at the request of the commission, will also research, draft and suggest sponsors for legislation that would positively impact older adults. This committee recommends support of legislative proposals that will:

- Ensure the safety of vulnerable adults.
- Promote older adult health and wellness.
- Expand the availability of home and community-based services for older adults.
- Alleviate financial burdens facing older adults.
- Support caregivers of older adults.

ASSISTED INDEPENDENCE, MONEY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The mission of the Assisted Independence and Money Management Committee is to foster the financial independence of older individuals through the use of volunteer services and technology in managing their finances. This committee does the following:

- Promotes the development of a program that facilitates volunteer services for the provision of money management, care management to certain vulnerable aged and disabled persons.
- Serves as the advisory council to provide oversight for the AARP Money Management Program.

COMMITTEE FOR ADVOCACY, RIGHTS AND EDUCATION (CARE)

The mission of the CARE Committee is to advocate and promote change to enhance the quality of life and protect the rights, dignity and welfare of vulnerable adults by offering education, information, advocacy and training programs to individuals, families and care providers. This committee was established by the state's Adult Protective Services' statute. This committee does the following:

- Advocates for more affordable housing and living arrangements.
- Maintain the public's awareness of various issues affecting the aged population.

CULTURAL COMPETENCY COMMITTEE

The mission of the Cultural Competency Committee is to ensure that the issue of cultural and linguistic competency is institutionalized throughout all programs developed and implemented by DACS and their contract providers. This committee does the following:

- Identifies disparities in service access.
- Identifies cultural and linguistic barriers to service access.
- Develops specific outreach strategies and interventions that ensure services are successfully assisting diverse older adults.